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16 May 2005  
File No. 10063-066

Cambridge Public Health Department  
119 Windsor Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. Sam Lipson

Subject: Proposed Landscaping Project  
W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. – Between Buildings 18 and 29  
62 Whittemore Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Dear Mr. Lipson:

The purpose of this letter is to document our conversation on 11 May 2005 regarding a proposed landscaping project at the Cambridge site. Although the project does not involve “soil disturbing activity, as it is defined under the Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance, due to the sensitive nature of the site and surrounding areas we felt it important to discuss the proposed project with you.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LANDSCAPED AREA**

This section briefly describes the historic use of the area to be landscaped. The area to be landscaped is a currently paved area just outside portion of the building (historic buildings 22 and 23) which connects Buildings 29 and 18 (See attached Site Plan). This area is located to the north of the former “Arlington Branch” railway which traversed the property and in the area to the north of the Utility Trench project completed by W.R. Grace (Grace) in late 2001. (Note: As a reminder, asbestos was not detected in soil samples collected from the utility trench area prior to installation of the utility trench. Asbestos fibers were not detected in ambient air over the course of the entire utility trench installation projects; sampling of ambient air for the presence of asbestos fibers during the project was conducted every day at both perimeter work zone station as well as through the use of personal sampling devices worn by the workers in the work zone.)

A majority of this area is currently paved and portions of which have a layer of gravel on top of the pavement. This area has been paved since approximately the mid-1970s and has been repaved several times since that date. For many years the area was used as a basketball court for Grace employees. The unpaved areas (mainly the area to the west located closest to

Building 29) are covered with a sparse grass cover.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LANDSCAPING ACTIVITIES**

W.R. Grace is in the process of completing a renovation to the façade of former Buildings 22 and 23. To continue improvements in this area Grace desired to create a landscaped area. The landscaped area had been designed in a manner which eliminates the need for disturbance of the subsurface. The elevation in this area (which lies outside of the floodplain) will be increased by creating a series of mounded areas. Overall the elevations in this area will be raised by several feet. The lowest areas will be the existing grassed areas which will be reseeded. From start to finish, it is anticipated this landscaping project may take approximately 3 to 4 weeks.

In order to allow for drainage in the new landscaped areas, Grace needs to remove the existing pavement in this area. As with past pavement repair project, Grace's contractor will implement a removal procedure designed to allow the lowest level of the pavement sub-base material to remain intact. Thin grooves will be cut into the existing pavement to allow it to be peeled back in a manner which does not disturb the subsurface.

The attached plan depicts the proposed looked of the finished landscaped area. Clean topsoil, and mulch will be brought in to create the mounded areas. On the eastern side of the area (closest to Building 18) gravel will be used to create a water retention feature. Plants and shrubs to be planted in the mounded areas are those which can grow and develop a root system these raised areas, without the need for excavation into the existing subsurface. In addition, two trees will be planted in above-grade "planter boxes". Grace would be happy to provide a list of the names and types of shrubs which will be planted in the mounded areas and the above-grade planters.

During this landscape project, Grace also plans to install the staircase, which will lead out of the building in the center of the landscaped area. The stair case structure will be supported at-grade on slab system and be connected into the existing building above-grade.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 617-886-7400.

Sincerely yours,  
HALEY & ALDRICH, INC.



Melissa M. McEwen  
Senior Environmental Geologist



William W. Beck  
Senior Vice President, LSP

c: W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn.; Mr. Robert F. Jenkins and Mr. Nizam Usta